

# Climate Adaptation Training for Local Governments in Northeastern Illinois September 19-22, 2011

## Flip Chart Notes

### Climate Adaptation is...

In the beginning of the course, each participant shared a Mad Lib as part of the introduction. When asked to describe climate adaptation in one word, this is what we heard:

Cool	Complicated	Challenging*
Concerning	Complex	Not all negative
Slightly overwhelming	Smart*	Expensive
Difficult	Probably necessary	Intuitive
Intriguing	Adjustment	
Needed	Important*	

\*Denotes words shared more than once

### Perceived Challenges to integrating adaptation into current programs and policies:

- Implementers resist change
- Coordination across needed programs
- Media misinterpretations
- Competing priorities
- Sustaining urgency

### Solutions to address the above challenges that the group brainstormed include:

- Listen to resistance to uncover true reasons
- Show benefits of sustainability to community needs (social, economic)
- Lead with innovative ideas and take advantage of windfalls
- Leverage business as usual and give credit
- Know your baseline (local climate basics)

### Small group collaboration

#### *Group 1 – Stormwater Management & Transportation focus*

##### A) Adaptation measures (those marked with \* were identified as priorities):

- Public education for prep
- Outreach on agency actions
- \*Change ordinance to include green infrastructure (stormwater management, master plans)
- \*Monitor effectiveness of green infrastructure
- \*Assess low-lying bridges
- Rebuild/design/engineer to elevate
- Redevelop Village prop to retain stormwater
- Investigate options to finance:

- Model and map sensitive areas for GI and other programs (e.g., downspout disconnect...)
- Develop inspection program for existing infrastructure
- Incentivize with permit fees to retrofit/redevelop with GI
- Remove legal/policy barriers to implement GI at local, state and regional level
- Research to demonstrate effectiveness of GI and remove policy barriers

#### B) Frameworks:

- International recs on water
- Stormwater management plan – “Plan it Green” (village level, updated ~3 yrs)
- Sewer system plan (village level, updated ~3yrs)
- Conservation development plan (local level)
- Local ordinance/suburban code
- CMAP-GoTo 2040, Water 2050 (updated ~4yrs)
- State regs – IDOT, IEP
- Park Preserve Management Plan
- Regional regs – MWRD of GC
- County regs
- Federal – USEPA region 5, USACE
- Adaptive Sustainability plan (local level)
- Land use plan (county level)

#### C) Programs, Projects, Initiatives:

- Capital investments – streets (permeable pavement, bioswales), sewers (main, lateral review)
- Maintenance plans (upgrade building features (lighting, water flow))
- Evaluate pilots for expansion
- Rain barrel/garden expansion
- Downspout disconnect
- Urban forestry initiative

#### D) Funding:

- Operational budgets
- Grants
  - CMAP, Partners for Sustainability
  - IEPA, low interest loans
  - Chicago Community Trust
  - NOAA Science Collaborative
  - USDA, Coastal Restoration Program
  - NOAA, CELCP
  - GLRI
- Federal earmarks
- Restoration funds

#### E) People:

- Director of Public Works
- Land use director
- Director of Community Development

- Regional Stormwater
- County – land use, water reclamation
- Residents
- Senator Harmon
- Representative Elaine Nekritz
- Mayor David Pope
- VMO – Sustainability office
- Weather broadcaster – Ginger Z, Tom Skilling
- Brook McDonald
- Chicago Community Trust
- Grand Victoria
- Chicago Wilderness Land Trust

### *Group 2 – Green Infrastructure and Surface Water focus*

#### A) Adaptation measures (those marked with \* were identified as priorities):

- Host educational seminars on climate change and adaptation
- \*Build suite of resources on climate change and adaptation
- Provide tech assistance for each RPC for climate change adaptation strategies
- \*Add permeable surfaces (edu and planning)
- Promote downspout disconnects in high flood areas
- \*Reevaluate the capacity of stormwater infrastructure and redesign if need be
- Use the county's natural resources inventory to monitor changes to habitats over time
- Reuse county's restoration plan to incorporate climate change adaptation measures
- Initiate planning coop to plan for appropriate management of GI network and identify funding mechanisms
- Ensure completion of TARP (deep tunnel) in a timely manner
- Separate sewers
- Adopt GI measures
- Build financial capacity of utilities to ensure sufficient infrastructure investment

#### B) Existing Plans:

- LaMP – Lake-wide area plan for Lake Michigan (USEPA, Glenpo)
- Great Lakes Compact (IJC, Council of GL Governors)
- Level of Lake Michigan Act (IDNR)
- GoTo 2040 and Water 2050 (CMAP, local gov., local partners, state, regional, county, COG MWRD)
- County comprehensive plans (e.g., Kane County land use management plan)
- County stormwater ordinances (counties)
- NWP, working on a plan by this regional agency to address ground water use (county-wide)
- Muni water plans (G.G.S.)
- Township open space plans that address stormwater management (townships)
- Watershed plans dev. By watershed groups (NGO, local government and local districts, H.A., power districts, NEEPA, CMAP)
- Fox River Ecosystem partnership integrated management plan

- GI vision by Chicago Wilderness
- Calumet Stewardship Plan

#### C) Policies, laws regulations:

- US S.C Consent Decree (national)
- Clean Water Act (national)
- NPDES permitting (state)
- County stormwater ordinances (counties)
- IDNR permit system authorized by USACE (state)
- Rule of Reasonable Use – ground water (state)
- IEPA reg ground water well (state)
- USEPA vis a vis NEEPA (national)
- Local stormwater ordinances

#### D) Programs, Initiatives, projects

- GoTo2040 Water 2050 plans and associated programs
- CCAP and associated programs
- Chicago Wilderness climate plan
- Energy Plan (muni)
- Infrastructure programs
- IDOT Alst – help ramp up GI
- MPEDS conditions permitting system
- Comp plans
- Emergency plans
- Hazard mitigation plan
- Conditions permit for Great Lakes
- BMP
- Revolving loan funds (how they're allocated)

#### E) Funding:

- FEMA
- GI state fund (IEPA)
- USACE infrastructure projects
- 319 grant (IEPA)
- Sustainable Communities Grant (HUD, EPA, DOT)
- Taxes
- Foundations
- Revolving loan funds (both muni and IEPA for water infrastructure)
- NOAA
- Muni utilities
- DOR funds
- GLRI
- Brownfield planning \$ (ILEPA)

#### F) People:

*Managers*

- MWRD
- IDNR
- EIPA
- USEPA
- USACE
- Utility managers
- Dept directors
- Restoration companies – including landscapers

*Must haves*

- All of above
- Landowners
- Muni commissioners
- Legislators
- Sea Grant
- Business
- Local NGOs
- Glenpo
- Tour operators
- Park districts and forest preserve districts

*Champions*

- Business
- Great Lakes Commission
- Electeds
- Community groups
- Someone impacted by change
- Muni employees
- People with pipes
- Unions and chambers (opportunity)

*Nice to haves*

- Universities
- Sea Grant
- CMAP
- Local volunteers
- Individual contributions

*Group 3 – Air quality, building facades, basements (not flooding)*

A) Adaptation measures (those marked with \* were identified as priorities):

*Air quality –*

- Examine ordinances for increased regulatory possibilities
- Collaborate on education to reduce individual emissions or increase awareness for at risk populations
- \*Decrease emissions from county operations

*Building facades –*

- \*Convening built environment key stakeholders to determine best way forward (DOB, DWM, CHA, COMED, PBC, private)
- Create work plan with actionable next steps (ID best practices, determine incentives/mandates as policy in ORD)
- Engage city council
- Draft policy to provide incentives or mandates for sustainable development for building facades

*Basements –*

- Develop marketing educational collateral for public and city council at neighborhood flooding initiative
- \*Update neighborhood flooding initiative program and re-implement
- Post mortems on existing projects (evaluate, lessons learned, modify)

B) Existing Plans:

*Air Quality –*

- Climate action plan for nature
- Water agenda (air agenda draft)
- Air quality monitoring

*Building facades –*

- CCAP
- GoTo 2040

*Basements –*

- Extreme weather operations plan (OEMC, includes FEMA \$)
- Green Urban Design

C) Policies, laws, regs:

*Air quality –*

- EPA air quality
- Clean power ordinance (proposed)
- IL Air quality standards
- Vehicle emission standards (CA model?)

*Building facades –*

- Historic District?
- New building codes/regs
- Green permitting process

*Basements –*

- Stormwater management ordinance
- Sustainable development policy (LEED, Energy star)

D) Programs:

*Building facades –*

- Historical façade program
- Chicago conservation corps (LCWEP)
- Green Corps – HEET – Home energy efficient and training

- Energy action network
- CEDA – econ/energy dev. – Cook County
- Energy impact IL
- Dept Public Health?/DOE

*Basements –*

- Neighborhood flooding initiative program – downspout disconnect
- Green permitting program
- Sustainable backyards
- Green alleys and green streets program

**E) People:**

*Managers*

- Commissioner, dept and staff (DWM, DOE, DOB, CMJ, MWRD...)
- Mayor
- Cook County
- CMAP
- Dept of Public Health
- CDOT

*Champions*

- Mayor
- Alderman
- Senators
- Block Club Presidents
- Hospital systems
- Clinics
- Utilities
- County President

*Need to haves*

- Sierra Club
- Friends of River
- Chicago Wilderness
- Alderman

*Nice to haves*

- Civic oversight groups (CCA, GPP...)
- Universities
- Field Museum
- CNT
- Hospital systems
- Utilities (\$)
- Foundations (\$)
- ICLEI
- Federal government support
- State government
- Other non-profits

- Big employers (Boeing, Hispanic Housing...)
- Insurance industry

#### F) Funding:

##### *Air Quality –*

- Energy Suc. Companies
- Energy audits
- CCAP funders group

##### *Building facades –*

- LIHEAP IL
- DCED
- Consortium Lowering Obesity Children program
- Lung Assoc.

##### *Basements –*

- Cross agency cost sharing
- Foundations

### **Intentions**

At the end of the course, we asked participants to think about what next steps they were planning on taking as a result of going through the course. Here is what we heard:

- Prepare a summary and resources to Lake Michigan Watershed Academy
- Book ICLEI for webinar
- Reconcile local science predictions
- Reconvene climate working group
- How to quantify economic benefits
- CCAP academic working group
- Info to comp plan
- Provide info to State DNR for vulnerability assessment
- Strategy to influence up to raise as a priority
- Attention to project management of downspout disconnect
- Inform other ICLEI members about resources, assistance
- Identify go-to experts and advocates
- Research BMPs and case studies
- Share with other public works directors
- Climate lens on sustainability plan review and programs
- Educate stakeholders in city
- Elevator speech on climate change
- Ask Kindy for summary to post
- Symposia for community
- Invite Leo to speak to the Oak Park board